



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Australians still keen on sport: ABS

Australians are as keen on sport as ever, with more than a quarter of the population involved in organised sport or physical activity, according to a report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In the year to April 2007, 3.8 million people played an organised sport, and 1.6 million were in a support role such as coach, referee or committee member.

This is over a quarter (27%) of all Australians aged 15 or older, and it is the same overall figure as the last two surveys (in 2001 and 2004).

People between the ages of 15-24 had the highest overall participation rate (39%) while people over 65 had the lowest (18%), and people between 35-44 were most often in support roles (16%).

The survey also found that:

- Males were more likely to be involved (30%) in organised sport than females (24%), and more males (26%) played sport than females (20%).
- More males (11%) had a support role than females (9%), however the proportion of females has increased from 8% in 2004.
- Of the 4.5 million people involved in organised sport, 8% were paid for their involvement.

Of the 1.6 million support people:

- 659,000 (41%) were involved as a coach and 381,000 (24%) were involved as a referee or umpire.
- 40% had two or more different support roles.
- Over one-third (38%) of support people had a qualification relevant to their role; most frequently these related to medical roles (87%).
- More than half (56%) were associated with school or junior sport.

Further details can be found in *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 6285.0).

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